

62-8184

6 November 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director (Plans) *✓* 6 - NOV 1962
SUBJECT: Current Purges in Bulgaria

1. This memorandum is for the information of the Director of Central Intelligence.
2. On the opening day of the VIII Bulgarian Communist Party Congress, seven of the Party's ranking members were removed from their Party and Governmental posts. This purge represents the most extensive de-Stalinization action undertaken by the Bulgarian Government since the XX Party Congress of the CPSU in 1956. The first step in the de-Stalinization campaign was in April 1956 when Prime Minister Vulko Chervenkov was replaced by Anton Yugov. Between 1956 and 1961 the Bulgarian Communist Party took very little further action toward de-Stalinization despite continued Soviet pressure. In November 1961 the then Minister of the Interior Georgi Tsankov and his two deputies were removed, given other Government posts and the powers of the Ministry greatly reduced. Since then [redacted] plans for further de-Stalinization measures. Yesterday's action saw the final expulsion of the former Ministry of Interior officials and the ouster of Anton Yugov himself. While Yugov was ostensibly purged as a Stalinist, it is felt this was more probably a personal power play of Todor Zhivkov, First Secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party, who used this means of disposing of one of the Party's abler leaders. The actual purge of Stalinists is long overdue and probably represents the maximum de-Stalinization effort the Bulgarians feel they can afford at this time.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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